

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**MINUTES**

September 8, 2009

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Walter Hope, and Terry Lent were also present. Brian Bosley was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

George Buck made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009 regular meeting. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens read into record (attached) a letter that she sent to Sean Loughran, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, on August 17, 2009 clarifying what was discussed at the Ball Pond Advisory Committee meeting on August 11, 2009 related to the proposed Ball Pond Town Park.
- There is \$330 remaining in the budget for weed control. The weed study results have to be reported still. There is no money in the budget for carp. Coontail weeds are currently bad, probably due to the unusual weather.
- Darlene Anderson-Alexander presented the meeting dates for 2010. The Committee will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Town Hall conference room.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Ball Pond Town Park
  - Cynthia Stevens reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission did not meet in August due to a lack of quorum so, therefore, the plans for the Park have not been presented to that Commission. They meet again on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Committee brainstormed possible funding sources for the Park including the possibility of applying for a Meserve Grant via the Friends of Ball Pond (deadline for these grants is 10/1). Cynthia Stevens will explore this option more.

New Business:

- Environmental Review Team Report and Proposed Zoning Regulations
  - Cynthia Stevens summarized the findings of the Environmental Review Team (ERT) Report "Candlewood Lake Water Quality Protection Issues". The report can be found at [www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org](http://www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org) . The findings will be reported to the citizens of New Fairfield in the second of an upcoming series of articles in the Citizen News written by Alex Messerle.
  - There will be a celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Candlewood Lake on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:30 in the NF Community Room. In addition to other guests and presentations, two members of the ERT will be there to summarize their findings.

- On October 1, 2009, there will be a Zoning Commission Public Hearing on the proposed new Zoning Regulations. The regulations can be reviewed at [http://www.newfairfield.org/filestorage/66/512/1803/NFZoningRegs\\_8-13-09.pdf](http://www.newfairfield.org/filestorage/66/512/1803/NFZoningRegs_8-13-09.pdf) . The Commission members will listen to public comment at the hearing. The Commission will vote on the regulations on a date still to be announced.
  - Discussion ensued about the delicate balance that the regulations must strike and about the ability of the Town to reinforce whatever regulations are adopted.
- Cynthia Stevens recommends that people continue the grassroots movement to spread the word about the need for storm water management strategies and that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee continues to lobby at the State and Local levels.

Other Business:

George Buck discussed a number of points relevant to Ball Pond, such as:

- The fees for fishing licenses have doubled, in his view creating an unfair economic barrier
- Perhaps Ball Pond should become a “Trophy Bass Lake” to prevent the lake from being overfished. Fishermen are keeping small bass, impacting reproduction, which could be prevented if a size limit, i.e., 20 inches, were regulated.
- He believes private homes are not allowed to put ropes out into the lake without a DEP permit. Discussion ensued about the issue of riparian rights (i.e., all landowners whose property is adjacent to a body of water have the right to make reasonable use of it).

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.; Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander  
Recording Secretary